

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF NEW YORK
ONE HOGAN PLACE
New York, N. Y. 10013
(212) 335-9000**

OFFICER: Lawrence Thomas
TAX NUMBER: 947541

DISCLOSURE ADVISORY

For the person named above, whom the People may call as a witness, please be advised as follows.

1. The New York City Police Department (NYPD) has deemed substantiated an allegation that on or about February 3, 2014 Lawrence Thomas failed to voucher property when he released prisoner property to the complainant without properly vouchering the property as required by the Patrol Guide.
2. The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) noted the following misconduct: on June 26, 2011 Lawrence. Thomas failed to prepare a memo book entry as required by Patrol Guide Procedure 212-08. On June 26, 2011, at approximately 2:00 AM, a group of five civilians were walking in the vicinity of Amsterdam Avenue and West 190th Street in Manhattan. They ordered food from a food truck and proceeded to walk toward West 190th Street when they were finished eating. A marked patrol car approached the area. Lawrence Thomas approached three of the civilians and issued a summons to one of them for obstructing pedestrian traffic. Although Lawrence. Thomas did not recall his encounter with the civilians, the CCRB investigation established his involvement through a copy of the summons that he issued. Additionally, one of the five persons in the group obtained the officer's vehicle number during the incident, which matched the vehicle assigned to Lawrence. Thomas and his partner. Given his extensive involvement and issuance of a summons during this incident, Lawrence. Thomas should have documented the encounter in his memo Lawrence Thomas had no memo book entries related to this incident, and thus failed to adhere to the guidelines of Patrol Guide Procedure 212.08.
3. The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) has deemed substantiated an allegation that on December 27, 2016 Lawrence Thomas abused his power by stopping two civilians without having reasonable suspicion that they had committed or were going to commit a crime. On December 27, 2016, at approximately 3:30 PM, a civilian left the Clark Thomas men's shelter on Wards Island, located at 121 Hells Gate Circle, with his friend. The two men walked to a bus stop located across from the shelter, and stood waiting for the bus. A black, unmarked automobile pulled up next to the two men, and three members of service, including Lawrence Thomas, all of Narcotics Borough Manhattan North, exited the car and approached them. The officers questioned the civilian's friend about whether he had just thrown something, and then began looking around the area near the bus stop. A second unmarked vehicle arrived, and three more members of service exited this vehicle and approached the two men. A Sergeant present supervised the stop from thereon. Both men were frisked. The officers all returned to their vehicles and left without arresting or issuing any summonses to either of them.

The CCRB investigation determined that the sole reasons for stopping the two civilians were that Lawrence Thomas observed one of the men smoking something that may have been a cigarette, and that Lawrence Thomas and another member of service who was present observed the same person extend his arm outwards in a way that may have meant he was throwing an object. The investigation did not credit Lawrence Thomas' statements that he smelled a faint odor of narcotics near the two civilians, that he observed a broken pipe and a knife on the ground near where the civilians were standing, and that one of the civilians admitted to urinating in the field prior to the stop. None of the other five officers present corroborated any of these factors, and several in fact denied them. Additionally, neither man was found to be in possession of any narcotics, they were not issued any summonses for any offenses during this incident, and none of the other officers observed the civilian appear to be smoking something before the stop. Furthermore, Lawrence Thomas himself stated that he did not have sufficient suspicion to stop the civilians during this incident, despite claiming that he observed one of the civilians smoking, and then upon approach smelled an odor of burnt narcotics near the civilians, and observed a broken crack pipe on the ground near where he had observed one of the men throw an object. To stop an individual, a police officer must possess reasonable suspicion that that person has committed or is about to commit a crime. An officer making an inconclusive observation of an individual smoking what may be marijuana is not sufficiently indicative of criminality to meet the standard of reasonable suspicion, absent any other suspicious behavior or circumstances. Even crediting Lawrence Thomas' statement that he observed one of the civilians smoking "something," which the officer believed may have been narcotics or a cigarette, and then subsequently observed him throw an unidentified object, these observations would still not constitute reasonable suspicion to stop the civilian, never mind his friend of whom no observations were made indicating criminality. Given that the officers did not have reasonable suspicion that the civilians had committed or were going to commit a crime, the officers' stop of the civilians was improper.

4. The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) noted the following misconduct: on December 27, 2016, Lawrence Thomas failed to prepare a stop-and-frisk report as required by Patrol Guide Procedure 212-11 for the above cited incident.
5. The New York City Police Department (NYPD) found Lawrence Thomas guilty of the below listed Charges & Specifications relating to the above cited December 27, 2016 substantiated CCRB allegations at a departmental trial:
 - a. Lawrence Thomas, on or about December 27, 2016, at approximately 1530 Hours, while assigned to the Narcotics Borough Manhattan North Unit, and on duty, across from 121 Hells Gate Circle, New York County, abused his authority as a member of the New York City Police Department, in that he stopped a person without sufficient legal authority.
 - b. Lawrence Thomas, on or about December 27, 2016, at approximately 1530 Hours, while assigned to the Narcotics Borough Manhattan North Unit, and on duty, across from 121 Hells Gate Circle, New York County, abused his authority as a member of the New York City Police Department, in that he stopped another individual without sufficient legal authority.
6. LAWRENCE THOMAS is a named defendant in the civil action, ROVONDIS COOPER V. THE CITY OF NEW YORK ET AL., 111106584, filed in New York Supreme Court, involving an incident that occurred on April 29, 2010.

7. LAWRENCE THOMAS is a named defendant in the civil action, SELMA PEVIC V. THE CITY OF NEW YORK ET AL., 157448/2015, filed in New York Supreme Court, involving an incident that occurred on June 12, 2014.
8. LAWRENCE THOMAS is a named defendant in the civil action, FRANCISCO CAMINERO V. THE CITY OF NEW YORK ET AL., 1555570/2015, filed in New York Supreme Court, involving an incident that occurred on August 10, 2014.

Various publicly available websites and databases contain disciplinary information for certain law enforcement officers. Information in such databases about this officer is not necessarily included in this advisory.

Any information herein regarding civil lawsuits against an officer is not necessarily a complete list of civil lawsuits in which that officer is a defendant.

Allegations of misconduct that have not been substantiated and are not pending (including, but not limited to, findings of unsubstantiated, unfounded, and exonerated), and allegations of technical infractions, are not subject to disclosure and are not included in this advisory.

The decision to include information in this advisory does not represent a conclusion by the People that it is required to be disclosed.

The People reserve the right to oppose or move to limit the use of any information included herein or disclosed in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assistant District Attorney assigned to the case on which you are receiving this advisory.

Date: November 12, 2020